

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02651 261438Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 261410Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9908

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SP

SUBJ: DON JUAN'S REMARKS AT TRADITIONAL ST. JOHN'S
DAY RECEPTION IN ESTORIL

SUMMARY: AS IN PAST YEARS SPANISH PRETENDER REITERATED
ON ST. JOHN'S DAY THAT, WHILE SILENT, HE IS AVAILABLE
WHEN NEEDED AND CALLED BY NATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO LISBON PRESS SOME 300 SPANIARDS,
INCLUDING OPPOSITIONISTS AS WELL AS MOST OF STAFF OF
LOCAL SPANISH EMBASSY, ATTENDED TRADITIONAL ST. JOHN'S
DAY RECEPTION JUNE 24 IN RESIDENCE OF DON JUAN DE
BOURBON BATTEMBERE, COUNT OF BARCELONA. TWENTY
SPANISH AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS BASED IN MADRID
ALSO PRESENT AT RECEPTION, APPARENTLY IN EXPECTATION
THAT DON JUAN WOULD MAKE IMPORTANT STATEMENT REGARDING
HIS AND SPAIN'S POLITICAL FUTURE. ABSENT WAS JUAN
CARLOS, WHO PRESS SPECULATED WAS PROBABLY ATTENDING
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED CEREMONY IN HIS HONOR IN MADRID.
PRESS NOTED HOWEVER THAT IN PREVIOUS YEARS YOUNG JUAN
CARLOS MADE A POINT TO BE PRESENT ON THIS DAY.

2. DON JUAN MADE NO MAJOR REVELATIONS OR STATEMENTS
AT RECEPTION, LIMITING HIMSELF TO GENERAL REMARKS OF
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PAGE 02 LISBON 02651 261438Z

SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, AND AN EXPLANATION OF

HIS SILENCE REGARDING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN. HE STRESSED THAT THIS SILENCE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A LACK OF INTEREST ON HIS PART IN SPANISH PROBLEMS, WHICH HE FOLLOWS CLOSELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, HIS SILENCE SHOULD NOT BE TWISTED BY "ARBITRARY INTERPRETATIONS" OR BY "IRRESPONSIBLE PROPHECIES" REGARDING HIS FUTURE CONDUCT. IN THESE "MOMENTS OF GENERAL CRISIS" HE PROCLAIMED IT HIS DUTY TO REMAIN SILENT. HE PREDICTED GRAVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON HORIZON FOR SPAIN, AND HOPED THAT SPANIARDS WILL KNOW HOW TO CONFRONT SUCH PROBLEMS DECISIVELY AND SERENELY.

3. DON JUAN WENT ON TO REITERATE WHAT HE SAID ON PREVIOUS OCCASION LAST YEAR, THAT HE "NEVER WAS NOR WILL BE A CONSPIRATOR MOVED BY AMBITION AND THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY MIGHT THINK, HAS UNRENOUNCEABLE DUTIES TO FULFILL....NO HUMAN POWER CAN IMPEDE ME FROM FULFILLING THIS DUTY". HE IS HEAD OF THE DYNASTY AND IS AWAITING DAY WHEN HE CAN BE OF GENERAL USE TO SPAIN.

4. PRIOR TO RECEPTION, ON INITIATIVE OF RAUL MORODO, GROUP OF SPANISH SOCIALISTS IN TOWN FOR RECEPTION INVITED OTHER SPANISH OPPOSITIONISTS TO A LUNCHEON TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO 60 SPANIARDS, NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PORTUGUESE CENTER LEFT AND LEFTISTS PARTIES ATTENDED, INCLUDING SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES AND SOCIALIST INFORMATION MINISTER RAUL REGO. COMMUNISTS AND REPS OF CENTER-LEFT PPD PARTY INVITED BUT DID NOT SHOW UP. PARTICIPANTS AT LUNCHEON REPORTEDLY EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON ANTI-FASCIST EXPERIENCES AND PLEDGED UNSPECIFIED MUTUAL COOPERATION IN FUTURE.

5. PRESS CLIPPINGS ON RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON BEING POUCHED EMBASSY MADRID.
SCOTT

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